AgNPS SALT Program

The Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment (AgNPS SALT) program provides funding to local soil and water conservation districts for projects in watersheds that have been shown to have a high risk of impact to water from agricultural sources. By focusing many conservation practices in one watershed, more progress can be made toward improving water quality and evaluating results.

Nonpoint source pollution occurs when runoff from rain, snowmelt and irrigation water carries pollutants to streams, lakes, and groundwater, which are all drinking water sources. Pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals and animal waste can wash off farm fields. Soil erosion is a concern because many pollutants are carried along with soil particles, which settle in streams and lakes as sediment and can impact water quality for years.

Landowners and farm operators may be eligible to receive funding for practices that improve water quality. These practices save soil, clean the water, improve wildlife habitat and make our streams a more beautiful place to visit. Landowners and the state of Missouri share in the cost of installing these practices, which are methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution.

You and others in your AgNPS SALT watershed can help improve water quality for everyone by participating in these practices.

For More Information

Contact your Local District or the Soil and Water Conservation Program at 1-800-361-4827 or visit us on the Web at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program

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Conserving Missouri's Soil and Water for Tomorrow

AgNPS SALT

program

Improving and protecting water quality by preventing and reducing agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

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Nutrient and Pest Management Practices

Nutrient management practices assure that fertilizer and manure are applied on fields based on soil tests that measure nutrients already in the soil. Soil tests are used to calculate nutrients needed to grow crops, trees, shrubs or grasses. Pest management assures that chemicals used to control pests and nuisance plant species are used only in the amount needed and at the correct time to control the problem.

Groundwater Protection Practices

Groundwater protection practices are used to prevent pollutants from leaching through the ground into drinking water supplies.

- Well decommissioning properly closes abandoned wells to protect water quality and removes a safety hazard.
- Spring developments can dry up wet areas and capture the groundwater and divert it to livestock drinking tanks for livestock watering facilities.
- Sinkhole protection stops surface runoff and debris from entering sinkholes which may otherwise lead to pollution of groundwater resources.

Irrigation Practices

Irrigation practices are used to reduce the quantity of water necessary to grow crops, apply the water so it is evenly distributed on the fields, reduce the amount of water lost through leaching and surface runoff and as a method to control the application of fertilizer to the crop.

Soil Erosion Practices

Soil erosion practices keep soil on farm fields or capture soil before it enters ditches, streams, rivers and lakes.

- Terraced crop fields, which often look like stair steps, reduce the length of slopes and trap sediment.
- Grassed waterways are built to channel surface runoff from crop fields through a grassed alleyway so erosion does not occur where crops are growing.
- Sediment basins or ponds are used to collect and store surface runoff to stop gullies from forming. Water may be released slowly from basins, and soil in the water settles in the basin, keeping it out of streams.
- Filter strips and field borders are grassy areas at the edge of fields, pastures or disturbed areas. Buffers trap sediment and chemicals and utilize excess fertilizer.

Grazing & Pasture Improvement Practices

Grazing and pasture improvement practices keep grass and haylands in good condition so the ground is well covered to slow surface runoff, prevent soil erosion and absorb excess water.

- Seeding practices are used to convert cropland to permanent grass cover. Legumes are added to poor pastures to improve grazing for livestock and wildlife. Warm season grasses are used for summer grazing and as wildlife habitat.
- Managed grazing is a technique where livestock are rotated in a paddock system. This method distributes the manure and supplemental feed throughout the fields and keeps the pasture from becoming overgrazed and barren.

Stream Protection Practices

Stream protection practices prevent animal manure and urine from being deposited directly into and adjacent to streams, and stops trampling and erosion of streambanks.

- Fencing is used to restrict livestock from streamside areas.
- Ponds, wells and springs with a pipeline system and watering tanks provide clean water supplies for livestock.
- Streambank stabilization uses natural and engineered materials to stop streambank erosion so land is not lost.
- Riparian buffers are trees, shrubs and grasses planted along streams to reduce the impacts of flooding, regulate stream temperature, create wildlife habitat, and absorb and filter pollutants from reaching the stream.

Animal Waste Practices

Animal waste practices keep nutrients and pathogens in manure and urine from reaching streams, lakes and rivers.

- Composting facilities are built to break down animal manure and dead animals so runoff does not leach through the soil into the groundwater.
- Animal waste facilities are used to collect manure and store it until it can be applied to the land according to a nutrient management plan.